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INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY 0632
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 WARSAW 000500

SIPDIS

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [EFIN](#) [KNNP](#) [IR](#) [PK](#) [KS](#) [PL](#)
SUBJECT: POLISH VIEWS ON MAY 18-19 GAERC

REF: A. 05/08/2009 GIAUQUE E-MAIL
[B](#). WARSAW 477
[C](#). WARSAW 486 (EXDIS)

Classified By: Political Counselor Dan Sainz for reasons
1.4 (b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (C) SUMMARY. Poland shares U.S. views on Russia with respect to both concerns and opportunities. Although differences remain, the improved tone of Polish-Russian relations bodes well for U.S.-Russian and EU-Russian relations. Poland will press for more EU-U.S. coordination on Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine and greater EU economic and political engagement. On Iran, while there is a growing sense that "time is up," EU member states are unlikely to consider autonomous sanctions before Iranian presidential elections. An explicit U.S. statement that the "ball is in Iran's court" would help to generate forward momentum in Brussels. Poland is concerned about recent member state withdrawals from the EUFOR Althea operation in Bosnia. Looking forward, FM Sikorski is scheduled to meet with his Pakistani and Korean counterparts on the margins of the May 22-25 ASEM Summit in Hanoi. END SUMMARY.

RUSSIA

[1](#)2. (C) MFA European Correspondent Cyryl Kozaczewski said foreign ministers will finalize preparations for the May 21-22 Russia-EU summit, adding that Polish views were in line with those of the U.S. with respect to both concerns and opportunities. Kozaczewski predicted FM Sikorski would brief on his May 6 visit to Moscow (ref B). Sikorski plans to highlight the improved tone in Polish-Russian relations, to chip away at the lingering perception that Poland is reflexively Russophobic and to convince member states that improved Polish-Russian relations will pave the way for improvements in EU relations with Russia.

EASTERN NEIGHBORHOOD

[1](#)3. (C) Kozaczewski emphasized the need for greater EU-U.S. coordination on Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine. On Georgia, Sikorski will press foreign ministers for more EU engagement, particularly in light of recent Russian declarations on border issues. Poland will support a French proposal to enhance EU trade relations with Georgia and lobby for a "multidimensional approach," to include coordinated outreach to the government and opposition. In light of Georgia's internal problems, both government and opposition need the EU's political support.

[1](#)4. (C) On Moldova, Sikorski will insist on EU "consistency," i.e., he will push EU member states to work to defuse Russian-Romanian tensions and to avoid disrupting EU regional initiatives, such as the Eastern Partnership and the Black Sea Synergy. "There are many pieces to the puzzle. We need EU engagement to ensure the situation does not get out of

hand."

IRAN

15. (C) Sikorski plans to debrief foreign ministers on Polish Deputy FM Najder's recent visit to Tehran (ref C). Kozaczewski said there are signs that one or two EU member states that have opposed autonomous sanctions are beginning to feel that "time is up." They might be willing to change their position, but not before Iranian presidential elections. That said, most of the usual holdouts insist that discussions with Iran are in an "intermediate phase." Kozaczewski suggested it would be helpful for the U.S. to tell EU member states explicitly that the "ball is in Iran's court."

BOSNIA

16. (C) Poland is deeply concerned about recent member state withdrawals from the EUFOR Althea operation, given the need for a strong EU presence to ensure stability. Poland will remain engaged, but has not reached a decision on troop levels. Sikorski will press for greater coordination among EU member states to avoid unexpected decisions and announcements.

ANTI-PIRACY MISSION

17. (C) Sikorski will press member states to think creatively about new legal instruments and strengthening judicial mechanisms to fight piracy.

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UPCOMING SIKORSKI TRAVEL

18. (C) Kozaczewski reported that Sikorski will attend the May 22-25 ASEM Ministerial in Hanoi. He is scheduled to meet with his Pakistani and Korean counterparts on the margins. Poland welcomes U.S. suggestions on messages and topics for both meetings.
ASHE